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Message Text

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O R 100200Z JAN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

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SUBJECT; FOLLOW-UP TO NATOMIN: SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR MEETINGS OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS

REF: USNATO 6198

1. AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, YOU SHOULD RAISE IN NAC SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL ON MEETINGS OF 15 POLITICAL DIRECTORS WITH THE COUNCIL IN PERMANENT SESSION (USNATO 6052, PARA 51), AND PRESENT US VIEWS AS FOLLOWS.

2. WE ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO PROMPT NAC ACTION TO IMPLEMENT SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL, WHICH IS CONSISTENT

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WITH EXPRESSIONS ON PART OF MANY MINISTERS AT DECEMBER

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MINISTERIAL MEETING ON NEED TO IMPROVE ALLIED CONSULTATIONS. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE RESTRUCTURING OF NATO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, FAVORED BY MAJORITY OF MINISTERS, AND PROPOSAL FOR MEETINGS OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS CAN BE VIEWED AS COMPLEMENTARY ENDEAVORS. THUS, IN ELABORATING SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR NAC ACTION, ALONG LINES SET FORTH BELOW, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE WOULD FAVOR AN

INTEGRAL APPROACH TO SEEKING TO ENHANCE CONSULTATIONS, ENTAILING MUTUALLY REINFORCING STEPS TO BROADEN THE SUBSTANTIVE SCOPE OF NAC POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, WHILE IMPROVING THEIR TIMELINESS AND

DEPTH.

3. WITH REGARD TO RESTRUCTURING OF MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, YOU SHOULD SUPPORT SYG LUNS' PROPOSAL FOR PROCEDURAL APPROACH INVOLVING DISCUSSION BASED ON INDIVIDUAL AGENDA ITEMS RATHER THAN SERIATIM INTERVENTIONS BY EACH MINISTER AS IN PAST. TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, AIM OF MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION ON EACH TOPIC SHOULD BE TO FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE FOR STEPS TO BE PURSUED BY NAC FOLLOWING MINIATERIAL MEETINGS. IDENTIFICATION IN THIS FASHION OF FOLLOW-UP ACTION WOULD PERMIT CLEARER SECTORING OF ENSUING NAC EFFORTS ON TOPICAL BASIS, AND INDIVIDUAL TOPICS SUBSEQUENTLY COULD BE ADDRESSED BY NAC IN REGULAR MEETINGS OF PERMREPS, OR IN MEETINGS OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS, TOGETHER WITH PERMREPS,AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

4. REGARDING TOPICS, FREQUENCY AND TIMING OF MEETINGS OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS, WE WOULD ENVISAGE THAT MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION WOULD SUGGEST SOME TOPICS FOR FURTHER POLITICAL DIRECTORS DISCUSSION. ADDITIONALLY, PERMREPS, ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL GUIDANCE, COULD RECOMMEND TOPICS FOR POLITICAL DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION. SESSIONS, IN OUR VIEW, SHOULD BE CONVENED TWO OR THREE TIMES FOLLOWING EACH MINISTERIAL MEETING. THIS ACCORDS GENERALLY WITH BELGIAN PERMREP DE STAERCKE'S USEFUL SUGGESTION THAT POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETINGS MIGHT TAKE PLACE EVERY

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TWO MONTHS (PARA 2, REFTEL). PROVISION ALSO SHOULD BE MADE FOR AD HOC GATHERINGS OF POLICIAL DIRECTORS AND PERMREPS WHEN WARRANTED BY FAST-BREAKING INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING THE ALLIES. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, WE WOULD ENVISAGE THAT IN THE EVENT OF A CRISIS, SUCH AS THE RECENT ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS COULD BE CONVENED AT NATO HEADQUARTERS ON SHORT NOTICE.

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5. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE THAT THE WORK OF THE REGIONAL EXPERTS, WHICH MEET TWICE EACH YEAR, COULD PROVIDE TOPICS FOR POLITICAL DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION, TYING IMPORTANT EFFORTS OF EXPERTS MORE DIRECTLY INTO THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. THUS, SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA IDENTIFIED IN THE REPORTS OF THE REGIONAL EXPERTS COULD BE REVIEWED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BY PERMREPS, AND THEN TOPICS MERITING FURTHER ATTENTION WOULD BE RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION BY THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS. THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE, IN EFFECT, A CONTINUOUS WATCHING BRIEF ON WORLD-WIDE DEVELOPMENTS

IMPACTING ON ALLIED CONCERNS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSIONS ON THE EVOLVING SITUATION IN THE MEDI-TERRANEAN AND MIDDLE EAST, WHICH ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN A DOMINANT CONCERN, POLITICAL DIRECTORS COULD ALSO ADDRESS SUCH MATTERS AS THE SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN PRESENCE. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE MAY BE RESISTANCE TO GREATLY EXPANDED DISCUSSION ON DEVELOPMENTS OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA, WE BELIEVE THAT EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE UNDERSCORED FOR ALL ALLIES THE VALUE OF CONSULTATIONS ON SUCH ISSUES. INDEED, THE HARMEL REPORT OF 1967, IN PARAS 7 AND 15, ENCOURAGED SUCH CONSULTATIONS.

6. AS INDICATED IN STATE 246922, WE WOULD FAVOR INITIAL MEETING OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN NEXT TWO MONTHS. THUS, IN ADDITION TO TAKING EARLY DECISIONS ON PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OUTLINED ABOVE, PERMREPS SHOULD DEVELOP A LIST OF SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT FIRST SESSION FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL IN CAPITALS.

7. BEGIN FYI. WE SEEK ESSENTIALLY IN PRINCIPLE APPROVAL
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BY NAC OF HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS, WHICH WE ASSUME WOULD BE GENERALLY AT LEVEL OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS FOR MOST ALLIES, BUT WHICH COULD INVOLVE OTHER HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS, DEPENDING ON TOPICS UNDER DISCUSSION. FOR EXAMPLE, WE MIGHT WISH TO BE REPRESENTED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED FOR DISCUSSIONS OF VARIOUS GEOGRAPHIC AREAS. YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE THIS POINT SHOULD THE ISSUE ARISE IN COURSE OF NAC DISCUSSION. IN LIGHT OF EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN NAC, WE WOULD BE PREPARED, IF APPROPRIATE, TO MAKE SUPPORTING DEMARCHES IN ALLIED CAPITALS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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